National Family Benefit Schemes in Gujarat

4200. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have extended National Family Benefit Schemes (NFBS) in the rural parts of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of households below the poverty line which were extended NFBS in the State during the last five years, year-wise; and

(d) the other measures being taken by Government to improve the lot of rural poor living below poverty line to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Central Assistance under the National Family Benefit Scheme is available to households below the poverty line in the event of death of the primary breadwinner in the bereaved family subject to the following conditions:—

(1) The primary breadwinner is the member of the household whose earnings contribute the largest proportion to the total household income.

(2) The death of such a primary breadwinner should have occured whilst he or she in the age group of 18 to 64 years i.e. more than 18 years of age and less than 65 years of age.

(3) The bereaved household qualifies as one below the poverty line according to the criteria prescribed by the Government of India.

(4) Rs. 5000/- in the case of death due to natural causes and Rs. 10,000/- in the case of death due to accidental causes will be the ceilings for the purpose of claiming Central assistance.

(5) The number of such cases should be within the numerical ceiling prescribed.

(c) The National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) under National Socail Assistance Programme came into force from 15th August, 1995. The State Government of Gujarat took considerable time to complete the Administrative arrangement for the implementation of the scheme and hence did not report any beneficiaries during 1995-96. During 1996-97, only 9 beneficiaries were benefited under NFBS as reported by the State Government.

(d) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), Indira Aawas Yojana (IAY), Million Wells Scheme (MWS) are other major scheme being implemented by the centre to improve the lot of the poor people living in rural areas of the state.

Drinking Water to Tribal Hamlets

4201. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether tribal hamlets in Nizamabad and Visakhapatnam districts in Andhra Pradesh are facing acute shortage of drinking water; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to carry out repairs to defunct borewells and other water sources in those areas particularly for supply of adequate drinking water to the tribal people of the areas and to other tribal areas of country in general?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) No report indicating acute shortage of drinking water has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The State Government have reported that every action is being taken to attend to the repair of defunct borewells and other drinking water sources, by engaging mobile maintenance terms for supply of adequate drinking water to all the habitations including the tribal ones.

Releasing of Additional Funds to Andhra Pradesh Under JRY

4202. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether additional funds of Rs. 138.00 crores under JRY have not yet been released for Andhra Pradesh as agreed to; and

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of labour intensive works in the rural areas were undertaken to provide gainful employment to the landless agricultural labourers in Andhra Pradesh, if so, whether funds would be released during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) Central assistance under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) is allocated to all the States/Union Territories on the basis of proportion of rural poor in a State/UT to the total rural poor in the country. The poverty estimates prepared by the Planning Commission are used for this purpose. The Central assistance under JRY has been released to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh as per their allocation and entitlement. Additional assistance is given only under special circumstances and that too if savings are available during that particular financial year, on receipt of proposals for additional funds.

Under JRY labour intensive works can only be taken by spending 60% of the allocation on wages. During the current year an amount of Rs. 46.59 crores as Central assistance have been released against the tentative central allocation of Rs. 155.28 crores to Andhra Pradesh.

Viability of National Social Benefit Scheme

4203. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Social Benefit Scheme for elderly destitutes families in distress and poor pregnant women, has proved a non-strater;

(b) if so, the reasons for not getting applications for financial aid from any category; and

(c) the measures proposed to end bureaucratic apathy and make the scheme viable?

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